## 20th March 1959]

## Rice

- \* 904 Q.—Sri S. B. ADITYAN (on behalf of Sri T. T. Daniel): Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—
- (a) whether the Government have taken measures to control the price of rice;
  - (b) the price of rice per measure or pukka;
  - (c) the reasons for the rise in the price of rice; and
- (d) whether the Government propose to start Fair Price Shops to control the price of rice?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following were the retail price of Rice (II sort) in some of the important Centres during the weeks ended 13th February 1959 and 20th February 1959.

13th Feb. 1959 20th Feb. 1959

Cuddalore	0.81	0.81
Vellore	0.81	0.81
Kumbakonam	0.78	0.78
Tiruchirappalli	0.84	0.80
Madurai	0.86	0.80
Nagercoil	0.84	0.81

- (c) The prices have been rising from July 1958 as usually the prices rise during the lean months of the year. There had been a sharp increase in the prices of foodgrains in North India and there was a sympathetic trend in the prices in the South Zone also. With the current main harvest the prices have come down in many places.
- (d) The Government have decided to build up a buffer stock of 2 lakhs tons of rice. The stocks will be released through Fair Price Shops, if and when the situation warrants it.
- \* 905 Q.—SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon, the Minister for Home be pleased to state—
- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices for rice and other commodities have increased abnormally in the North Arcot district: and
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government to bring down the prices?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) No, Sir. The prices which were no doubt soaring up have begun to fall in all districts including North Arcot.

(b) 1. In order to stabilise the prices the Government have begun to build up a buffer stocks of 2 lakhs tons from the current harvest. Procurement operations are going on.

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2. This Government have also fixed maximum wholesale prices for the sale of paddy and rice throughout the State and have vested necessary powers in the Collectors, Revenue Divisional Officers, Grain Purchase Officers, etc., to enforce price control strictly and requisition the stocks from traders or others, who are selling paddy or rice at rates above the ceiling and distribute them at control rates.

\* 906 Q.—SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI : கனம் உள் விவகார அமைச்சுர் அவர்கள் தயலுசெய்த பதிலளிப்பாரா—

1958–ம் ஆண்டில் முதல் தாம், இரண்டாம் தாம் அரிசியினுடையை சராசரி விஜல் என்ன?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The average wholesale prices of rice, first sort and second sort, during the year 1958 were Rs. 21-71 and Rs. 19-80 per maund respectively, while the retail prices were Rs. 23-89 and Rs. 21-44 respectively.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Sir, is it a fact that the prices have gone up because of the Government's operating in the rice market in the North Arcot district?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALIAM: That is not so, Sir. But, that is perhaps the argument of the vested interests.

Srt S. M. ANNAMALAI : சார், இட்பொழுது சர்க்கார் நிர்ணயித் துள்ள விலே ஏவ்வளவு ? இந்த விலே எந்த அருப்படையில் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது ?

The Hox Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: சாக்கார் அந்தந்த சகங் களுக்கு ஏற்றுற்கான் விலைய நிரையித்திருக்காது. இசபற்றி ஒரு நேரடிபிகேஷன் பிரசுரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்றிறது. அந்த வி ங்கள் டுப்பபாகவேண்டும், வாங்குகிற ஏழை மக்களுக்கும் கூறந்த அளவில் இருக்கவேண்டும் என்ற அடிப்படையில் வில கிரணைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கு கட்டுந்த இரண்டையும் மனதில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு, பாக்கட் நில்வரங்களையும், மற்ற ராஜ்யங்களில் உள்ள நில்வரங்கள்பும் பாத்து இந்த விலேகள் நிரண்டுக்கப்படுகின்றன.

SRI S. B. ADITYAN: May I know whether, by reason of the entry of the Government as a purchaser into the rice market, the commodity has become scarce and not readily available to the public?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I am quite well aware that some of the merchants who do not like this interference and want to be left alone to do business as they please create this artificial scarcity. The Government are dealing with that situation.

SRI S NAGARAJA MONIGAR: மற்ற காரணங்கள் எல்லாவற்றையும் காட்டிலும் வியாபாரிகள் நாட்டில் எந்த நீலே இருந்தாலும்—பஞ்சம் இருந்தாலும் கூட இதுகான் தாங்கள் வாபம் அடைவகற்குரிய, சமயம் என்று ஒருவிக சூழ்ந்நீலேயை உண்டாக்கே—அதிக லாபத் திற்கு பொருள்களே விற்க முயற்சி செய்வ - இதற்குக் காரணம் அல்லவா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Unfortunately that is the position with reference to some of the merchants. As I said, the Government are dealing with that situation.